NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Permit Renewal Team
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826-3200

Project Title: Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc., El Monte Accumulation Center, Hazardous Waste Storage Facility Permit Renewal

Project Location: 10625 Hickson Street, City of El Monte

County: Los Angeles County

Project Description:

The Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc., El Monte Accumulation Center is a permitted hazardous waste storage and bulking facility. The Hazardous Waste Facility Permit was last issued on March 29, 1995. The permit renewal allows the facility to continue operations for the next 10 years.

The Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc., El Monte Accumulation Center (Safety-Kleen) leases parts cleaning equipment and provides solvents delivery and pickup to its customers. Its customers are a variety of service-oriented businesses including automotive repair shops, aircraft maintenance operations, and machine shops. Hazardous wastes received from its customers include used parts washer solvent including petroleum-based parts washing solutions or aqueous-based parts washing solutions, spent immersion cleaner, dry cleaning wastes, spent antifreeze, used oil, and paint waste/lacquer thinner. Other hazardous wastes stored at the facility include wastes generated by Safety-Kleen on-site, and wastes stored on a transfer basis only (stored for less than 10 days).

Hazardous wastes storage units at the facility are one nominal 12,000-gallon underground storage tank (UST) and four drum storage areas located within a warehouse. Drum storage areas total permitted capacity is 36,660 gallons. There is also one 12,000-gallon UST that is used for the storage of solvent product. Aqueous-based parts washing solutions are brought to the facility in containers and are taken to the Return and Fill area. The containers are opened and the contents poured into the drum washer units located at the Return and Fill area. The drum washer units, which are connected to the hazardous waste UST, are equipped with removable upper screens. The screens are designed to remove course solids and metal parts that may come with the containerized waste solvent. The solvent settles at the bottom of the drum washer units and flows into the UST. Periodically, a Safety-Kleen truck is dispatched to the service center to collect and transport the wastes to a designated Safety-Kleen recycle center or operation center for consolidation.

The hazardous waste storage unit is designed with secondary containment in a case, a spill occurs. The UST is double-walled and equipped with a leak detection system, the drum washer unit is placed over secondary containment with a capacity of approximately 155 gallons, and the drum storage areas are equipped with curbs, a concrete floor, and trenches to contain any spill and prevent flow of waste to the outside. The permit renewal authorizes the facility to continue to store hazardous waste in drums/containers and the UST. The permit renewal also allows the additional waste management practice of bulking state of California designated hazardous waste used oil and antifreeze into drums/containers and into bulk vacuum trucks and vice versa. This bulking operation is limited to small loads of used oil and antifreeze that are picked up from small quantity generators and commercial customers that have less than full truckloads. All transfer will occur within existing Return and Fill unit or drum storage areas. The bulking practice does not require new equipment at the facility.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc.

Exemption Status: (check one)

☐ Ministerial [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(1); CCR, Sec. 15268]
☐ Declared Emergency [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(3); CCR, Sec.15269(a)]
☐ Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); CCR, Sec.15269(b)(c)]
☐ Categorical Exemption: [State type and section number]
☐ Statutory Exemptions: [State code section number]

X General Rule [CCR, Sec. 15061(b)(3)]

Exemption Title: With Certainty, No Possibility of a Significant Effect

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The project is an existing facility and the renewal of the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit will allow the facility to continue operations for the next 10-year term of the permit. The allowed types and volumes of wastes handled and stored will not change. Also, no physical expansion of the facility is proposed. The Hazardous Waste Facility Permit includes a minor change in waste handling, which is to allow bulking of used oil and used antifreeze into containers and to hold the containers at the Return and Fill Unit for less than 24 hours. These operations will occur within existing secondary containment.

This project will not result in a significant impact because:

1. Specific procedures have been included in the Operations Plan of the permit that will assure safe storage to minimize the potential for spills and allow efficient response to control any spills. Provisions are also included to assure worker safety during the operations.

2. The integrity of the underground storage tank and piping system and secondary containment structures were inspected and certified by a licensed engineer in California in September 2007.

3. The City of El Monte Planning Department has reviewed the permit renewal project. The facility is located in the heavy Industrial zoning district and is currently permitted. Therefore, the facility is consistent with local zoning and no new local land use permit will be required.

4. The El Monte Facility is on the Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List compiled pursuant to Government Code 65962.5. The source of the listing is the State Water Resources Control Board's Leaking Underground Fuel Tank database. The listing pertains to the former USTs used in the solvent recycling operations that were removed and closed in 1992.

5. The UST is currently used for storage of aqueous wastes which requires no air permit. The hazardous waste facility permit authorizes the UST to be used for storage of petroleum based cleaners as well as aqueous wastes. However, prior to using the UST for petroleum-based cleaners, the facility shall obtain a permit from South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to authorize the operation. The facility shall send a copy of the SCAQMD's permit to DTSC for review. The facility shall not be authorized to store any petroleum-based cleaners until the facility receives written acknowdgement from DTSC that DTSC has reviewed and accepted the SJVAPCD's permit. Safety-Kleen solvents are low in volatiles and are stored in underground storage tanks. The tanks are designed so that all cover openings can be kept closed with no visible gaps, holes, cracks, or other open spaces into the interior of the tank. The cover and all cover openings operate with no detectable emissions when in a closed position. Cover openings are maintained in a close position at all times except when adding or removing solvent from tanks, or when necessary sampling, or repair/maintenance is performed. Also, the drum washing units at the facility are kept closed except when adding or removing wastes, sampling, or performing routine maintenance that requires the lids to be open. The facility does not anticipate significant increase in amount of waste or product processed at the facility as a result of this permit renewal and continues to comply with all applicable air regulations. Therefore, considerable net increase of volatile organic (VOC) emissions, which would exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors is not anticipated.

6. The El Monte Facility's existing UST is double-walled and is designed to prevent any releases or off-site migration of contamination. There is a monitoring device in place which provides continuous monitoring to ensure that any leak may be detected and if it is detected, an appropriate measure will be taken pursuant to the Facility's Contingency Plan. Additionally a California Environmental Quality Act analysis will also be conducted for any future closure activity related to the permitted units.

7. The facility is located in an industrial/business park area of El Monte. It is a paved site and no riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community is located on site, or at any location in El Monte near to the facility. Therefore, continued operation of the existing facility will not impact biological resources. El Monte lies in a highly urbanized area where very little open space exists in the form of natural resource areas. The Natural Diversity Database identifies the Copper Butterfly listed by Endangered Species Act occasionally seen in the area and only recommends consultation with their office for projects likely to impact the area of El Monte where it could be seen. The Safety-Kleen permit renewal process is not anticipated to result in any modification to the facility that will

impact any habitat or natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serves.

8. The facility drainage system design meets local regulations and will withstand hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads due to 24-hour probable maximum storm. Renewal of the existing hazardous waste facility permit does not involve any physical changes to the facility and therefore will not alter the drainage pattern of the site or area. The El Monte Public Works Department states that existing storm drain and pump facilities provide adequate service in times of excessive storm flows. Hazards related to excessive storm flows are considered to be minimal in El Monte. The only problems experienced within the City's storm flow system have been related to debris collection and temporary blockage of drainage gates, specifically in the Garvey Avenue underpass.

In 1993 three single-walled USTs were removed and replaced with two 12,000-gallon double-walled fiberglass coated carbon steel USTs located in a new area. The removed tanks consisted of one 10,000-gallon product mineral spirit tank, one 10,000-gallon waste mineral spirit tank, and one 1,000-gallon mineral spirit sludge settling tank. Results of soil and groundwater sampling activities from previous investigations conducted in 1987, 1990 and 1993, as well as excavation sample results from the 1993 UST removal activities confirmed that total petroleum hydrocarbons as mineral spirits (TPH-MS) and certain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in soil/groundwater in the vicinity of the former USTs. Three additional monitoring wells were installed in 1994, as well as a soil gas investigation conducted to further delineate the extent of impacts at the site. Based on these results, an additional excavation was conducted in 1996 to remove residual source area contamination in the vicinity of the former USTs. Approximately 720 cubic yards of additional impacted soils (based on soil disposal records) were removed and disposed at an appropriately permitted disposal facility. Confirmation samples from the excavation limits were collected and submitted for laboratory analysis. The excavation was backfilled with clean material and repaved. Results of the excavation confirmation samples were evaluated using a risk-based methodology. DTSC approved the resultant comparison and determined that soils met appropriate health-based levels in correspondence dated April 24, 1997. Closure of the former USTs was documented in a report titled "Summary of Excavation Activity and Closure Certification Report" submitted to DTSC on May 19, 1997. DTSC approved closure certification in a letter dated June 22, 1998.

A RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) report was submitted on June 25, 1997. The RFI Report summarized the previous assessment results and clean closure documentation associated with the former USTs. The results of post-excavation groundwater monitoring verified that concentrations detected in groundwater samples were continually decreasing. Therefore, the RFI report proposed continued monitoring without active remediation required for groundwater since concentrations were decreasing. DTSC approved the RFI report in a letter dated June 22, 1998. The results of groundwater monitoring were presented to DTSC in subsequent progress reports. The results verified that groundwater concentrations had attenuated to non-detect levels for most constituents, or levels below maximum contaminant levels for drinking water (MCLs). S-K performed a final verification groundwater monitoring event in January 1999. The results confirmed the previous results and demonstrated that groundwater met appropriate criteria for completion of closure/corrective action. The results of the January 1999 monitoring event were presented in a progress report dated March 23, 1999, along with notice that groundwater monitoring would no longer be conducted.

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Branch Chief Signature	Date

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